

to, done walkathons, done everything we can to help their missions, which is to help America's patients. They are unanimous that the Senate should reject this measure and that we should move on to a new approach—following Mr. Einstein's advice—to try and fix the American healthcare system.

Incredibly, American provider groups, who at many times are at each other's throats in terms of different healthcare legislation, have also taken the same position: the American Medical Association; the American Nurses Association; the Association of American Medical Colleges; the American Hospital Association; the Catholic Health Association of the United States; and the American Health Care Association, which represents thousands of nursing homes like the one that just cared for that gentleman that we heard such kind words about a moment ago from Louisiana.

Again, incredibly, the National Association of Medicaid Directors from all 50 States—Republican States and Democratic States—issued an extraordinary letter last week. Again, these are folks who run the system. They are actually on the ground. They are in the real world, not in the political bubble of Washington, and they have unanimously begged the Senate to vote “no,” and to stop this rush to undermining and creating a catastrophic damage to America's healthcare system.

The RAND Corporation issued a report just a couple of days ago that talked about the impact of this measure on America's veterans. 1.75 million American veterans use the Medicaid program; many in nursing homes, maybe like Mr. Hunter, who we just heard about. The RAND Corporation has told us that passing this measure will undermine our promise to America's veterans, the people who wore the uniform of this country, that they would have access to coverage through the Medicaid program. That is what this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, in the real world, at the end of this week, the Children's Health Insurance Program, a bipartisan measure that passed a couple of decades ago, expires its authorization. The law that provides authorization for America's community health centers, that expires at the end of this week. The National Health Service Corps, which allows young Americans to get the opportunity for affordable medical education, that expires at the end of this week.

That is what we should be focused on; not another mindless rushed judgment to satisfy a political promise that the American people don't want and we know, from all the folks who are out there in the real world of America's healthcare system, won't work. Vote “no.”

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE WASHINGTON CROSSING NATIONAL CEMETERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my admiration for a dedicated group of individuals in my community who tirelessly work to ensure every veteran receives the recognition they deserve.

This organization is the Guardians of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Through rain, sleet, extreme heat, and excessive cold, conditions that would make others seek shelter, these dedicated members have not missed a single veteran's funeral since the opening of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Over 10,000 of our Nation's veterans have received their final honors provided by this devoted patriotic group of citizens.

It is with deep gratitude that I share their efforts on this floor.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their humble service, I include their names in the RECORD.

Bob Craven, Gabe Masico, John Heenan, Dan Worden, Mel Benson, Joe Hogan, Joe Longmore, Marge Weiner, Jerry Byrnes, Gene Hamilton, Hugh Bell, Les Walters, Randy Seitter, Ken Myerson, George Sweet, Tom Hauserman, Ron Lyons, Gene Teece, Bob Miles, Terry Schweikert.

Bill McKenna, Walter Elsperger, Bob Sundling, Sal Castro, Tom Molnar, Bob Davis, Jan Becknell, Bob Greenwood, Bill Tuttle, Bill Kratz, Harry Magrisi, Harold Shultz, Rich Bender, Tim Ward, Ken Fox, Skip Munday, John D'ascenzo, Fred Ameel, Joe Darwalk, Frank Adams.

John Morgan, Walt Jerdan, Dennis Cudnik, Joe Fonde, Steve Whiteman, Terry Sherk, Jim McDevitt, Bob Castor, Jim Kuhn, Tom Lyons, Bob Boccuti, Jim Hartman, Kathleen Mcall, Marc Wilard, Victor Teat, Ned Cooney, Dick Lima, John Lee, John Wharton, Jim Frawley.

Chet Gursky, Donn Nolan, Tim Ghebeles, John Sandle, Jim Harris, Ed Steglik, Bill Fenimore, Bob Crossett, Fred Cadwell, Bill Lee, Steve Govern, Brian Watson, Joe Keller, Bill Stevens, Barry Helfer, Dan Madden, Mer Claar, Don Weiss, Charles Godin, John McGarrigue, Jerry McGovern, Fred Stewart, Jack Jameson.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we can never truly thank our Nation's veterans enough for their service and their sacrifice. But the work of the members, past and present, of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery Honor Guard is an example we should all follow.

MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of raising awareness of mitochondrial disease this month of September.

Mitochondrial disease is a chronic genetic disorder that occurs when the mitochondria of the cells fail to produce enough energy to keep them functioning. This disease affects 1 in 4,000 Americans of all ages, including my constituent, Bettemarie Bond.

It can have severe consequences. Symptoms of mitochondrial disease are poor growth, loss of motor function, and an increased risk of infection. For more than 25 years, Bettemarie has relied on continuous infusions of parenteral nutrition, saline, and pain medication to help manage the effects of her conditions.

As a patient advocate, she raises awareness of the importance of access to home care. Home infusion care has allowed Bettemarie to go to college, work as an occupational therapist, and buy her home in my hometown of Levittown.

This month we highlight the importance of coming together to support those with this disease, as well as educate the public about its effects. We can and must spread awareness for this disease through social media awareness, spreading the word in our communities, sharing stories of those afflicted, wearing green in support, and holding events to help gain recognition of this disease and its repercussions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak with all those impacted by this condition, including my constituents, as we work to find a cure.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOOD STAMPS ACT OF 1977

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this Friday marks the 40th anniversary of the Food Stamps Act of 1977, landmark legislation that expanded the reach of the Food Stamps program and made it more effective and efficient.

The bipartisan legislation came as a response to the severe hunger and malnutrition that plagued our country in the 1960s. In 1968, a CBS documentary called “Hunger in America” turned the Nation's focus to this terrible problem, making us all aware that even in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, kids were going to school hungry and families couldn't afford nutritious meals.

For the next decade, my friend and mentor, Senator George McGovern, the Democrat from South Dakota; and Senator Bob Dole, a Republican from Kansas, led the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. This bipartisan panel worked to examine the issue of hunger and malnutrition in the United States. They held field hearings to witness firsthand how devastating the curse of hunger was across this country. They worked together to educate the public and other Members of Congress on hunger, and worked together to find common ground on how best to tackle this terrible problem.

Out of this work came important updates to the Food Stamps program. The Food Stamps Act of 1977 established national standards of eligibility for the program and eliminated the requirement that recipients pay for their